

REMARKS

1. The specification has been amended to include a description of Figure 2a.
2. The rejection of claims 1-4 under 102(b) as being anticipated by Khokhar (USPN 6,185,791) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of the following:

Claim 1 as amended and recited above calls for a base having first and second ends; a slot through the second end of the base; the basing being of a length permitting a cord to be looped around it; a strap having a first end attached to the first end of the base and a second, free end for being slidably received by the slot in the second end of the base, and a latch graspable by a user for releasably securing the second end of the strap in the slot through the second end of the base.

Khokhar does not include the above listed combination of elements claimed in amended claim 1. Khokhar discloses a releasable cable tie including a head, a tail and an elongated strap between the head and tail. The upper substantially straight portion of element 13 in fig. 7 is not equivalent to the base claimed in claim 1. The upper substantially straight portion of element 13 in fig. 7 is the remaining portion of element 13, which is a strap existing beyond the head of the cable tie. Further, this portion of the element 13 does not provide for a base that a cord can be looped around and secured, it's merely an extra length of the strap [element 13].

Claim 2 adds additional features to independent claim 1 as recited above and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claims 3-4 are canceled:

3. The rejection of claims 1-4, 8-11 and 13 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Liu (US-2003/0066169) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested.

Claim 1 as amended and recited above calls for a base having first and second ends; a slot through the second end of the base; the base being of a length permitting a cord to be looped around it; a strap having a first end attached to the first end of the base and a second, free end for being slidably received by the slot in the second end of the base, and a latch for releasably securing the second end of the strap in the slot through the second end of the base.

Liu discloses a fastening belt 20 having two free ends as shown in fig.6 which are inserted into a separate fastening socket 10. The portion of the belt 20 adjacent and extending from the opening 120 of socket 10 is merely one end of the separate belt, which is not an equivalent to the first end of the base claimed in claim 1. This portion of the belt 20 can be considered as an equivalent of the first end of the strap attached to the first end of the base claimed in claim 1, but not the first end of the base its self. While Liu disclose a fastening socket 10 having an opening 110 through which the oppose end of belt 20 can be inserted, Liu does not disclose the use of a latch graspable by a user for

releasably securing the second end of the strap in the slot through the second end of the base as claimed in claim 1 and consequently in each of the remaining claims of this application.

Claim 2 adds additional features to independent claim 1 as recited above and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claim 8 as amended and recited above calls for the base claimed in claim 1 to include first and second telescopically interconnected base members permitting adjustment of the length of said base. The portion of element 20 [the belt] adjacent and extending from opening 120 of fastening socket 10 is not equivalent to the first base member as claimed in claim 8, this portion is merely a section of one end of two ends of a separate belt 20. The combination of this portion of the belt 20 and the socket 10 does not provide an equivalent of first and second base members telescopically interconnected as claimed in claim 8. The portion of the belt 20 extending from the opening 120 of the fastening socket is only equitant to the first end of the strap attached to the first end of the base as claimed in claims 1 and 8.

Claims 9-11 add additional features to claim 8 as recited above and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

4. The rejection of claims 5-7 and 14-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu (US-2003/0066169) in view of Lyons (USPN 5,881,426) and Hu (USPN 4,778,125) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested.

Claim 5 as recited above adds additional features to independent base claim 1, which is considered to be patentable over Khokhar and Liu and thus is submitted to be a fortiori.

Claims 6 and 15 as recited above calls for the base claims 1 and 13 respectively to include a cord coupling clip attached to said base; and a cord end adaptor including opposed raised edges, said cord end adaptor for attachment to a cord and adapted to be received by said cord coupling clip.

Liu in view of Lyons and Hu do not teach a cord bundling apparatus having a cord coupling clip attached to a base of the apparatus which is engagable with a cord end adaptor that is attachable to the end of an extension cord as claimed in claim 6. While Hu does disclose a cord grip 131, Liu, Lyons or Hu does not disclose a cord end adaptor for attachment to an end of an extension cord which is engagable with the cord grip 131 of Hu. Applicant notes and agrees with the examiner that size adaptors are old and well known, however the cord end adaptor is not a size adaptor. The cord end adaptor is clamped to the end of an extension cord to provide an engagement between the cord coupling clip which prevents wear to the extension cord and prevents the extension cord from slipping axially through the cord coupling clip. The cord grip of 131 frictionally grips a cord inserted into it, and over a period of time the frictional grip of the cord will

wear the insulation of the cord resulting in the possibility of electrical shock. Further, while the cord grip of 131 frictionally grips the cord, it does not prevent the cord from being pulled axially through the grip.

Claim 7 as recited above calls for the base claim 1 to include an electrical extension cord having a cord adaptor including raised edges integrally molded into a section thereof. Liu in view of Lyons and Hu do not teach an electrical extension cord having a cord adaptor including raised edges integrally molded into a section thereof as claimed in claim 7.

Claim 14 as recited above adds additional features to independent base claim 13, which is considered to be patentable over Liu and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori.

Claims 16 and 17 as recited above add additional features to claim 15, which is considered to be patentable over Liu in view of Lyons and Hu, and this are submitted to be a-fortiori patentable.

Furthermore, Liu discloses fastening belt 20 having two free ends as shown in fig.6, which are inserted into a separate fastening socket 10. The combined belt 20 and fastening socket 10 are not equivalent to the base and strap combination claimed in claim 1. Thus, Liu does not teach a base and the use of a latch for releasably securing the

second end of a strap in a slot extending through the second end of the base as claimed in claim 1 and consequently in each of the remaining claims of this application.

Lyons discloses an elongated strap with a standard buckle for interconnecting the ends of strap. If the buckle is considered to be the equivalent of the base claimed in claim 1, then the fasten securing unit 3 would be the equivalent of the first end of the base of claim 1, since the securing unit 3 is permanently attached to the strap or harness device of Lyons. Thus, by process of elimination, the detachable unit 4 of Lyons would be the equivalent of the second end of claims 1 and 13. While Lyons discloses a strap with a first end attached to the first end of the base unit 3 and a second free end having slots therethrough (unit 4), Lyons does not teach the use of a latch releasably securing the second end of the strap in the slot through the second end of the base. The adjusting member 5 of Lyons is intended to adjust the size of the closed loop of the strap 2. Moreover, the buckle units 3 and 4 do not define a base, but merely define the ends of the strap 2. Thus, Lyons does not teach a base and the use of a latch for releasably securing the second end of a strap in a slot extending through the second end of the base as claimed in claims 1 and 13 and consequently in each of the remaining claims of this application.

5. New added claim 21 as recited above adds additional features to independent base claim 1, which is considered to be patentable over Khokhar and Liu and thus is submitted to be a-fortiori.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that:

Claims 1-21, recite distinctions that are of patentable merit under 35 USC 102(b); 35 USC 102(a) and 35 USC 103(a) for the independent claims and thus for each dependent claim as well. Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested. Allowance of claims 1-19 at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned agent of record at 727-490-2020 Ext. 7011 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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